

BYRON L. DORGAN
NORTH DAKOTA
713 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3405
202-224-2551
202-224-9378 TDD

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE, SCIENCE & TRANSPORTATION
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES
INDIAN AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN, DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3405

December 7, 2004

STATE OFFICES:

312 FEDERAL BUILDING
THIRD AND ROSSER AVENUE
P.O. BOX 2579
BISMARCK, ND 58502
701-250-4618
1-800-666-4482 TOLL-FREE

112 ROBERTS STREET, ROOM 110
P.O. BOX 2250
FARGO, ND 58107
701-239-5389

102 NORTH 4TH STREET, ROOM 108
GRAND FORKS, ND 58201
701-746-8972

100 1ST STREET, S.W., ROOM 105
MINOT, ND 58701
701-852-0703

The Honorable Tommy Thompson
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Thompson:

First let me thank you for your service to this country. I wish you all the luck in your future endeavors. Before you leave, however, there is an unfinished piece of business that needs your immediate attention – approval of the Prairie Prescriptions Pilot Project for North Dakota.

When we met back in March, you told me you would take a good, hard look at this proposal, and time has long passed for a response from you. You told me that North Dakotans would get a response on this proposal, which could help dramatically reduce the costs of their medicines. I hope you will honor that commitment and give me your decision before leaving office.

This plan has the potential to save North Dakota consumers tens of millions of dollars a year on their prescription medicines. In addition, the proposal thoroughly addresses any safety issues you could have. In fact, the Prairie Prescriptions project will improve safety for North Dakota consumers by keeping local pharmacists involved in their patients' care.

I look forward to hearing from you with a positive response soon.

Sincerely,



Byron L. Dorgan
U.S. Senator

BLD:mmm